

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 SCA-01 DHA-02 VO-03 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FBIE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 /079 R

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R 041948Z OCT 76

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, UR, US (BRAZINSKAS, ALGIRDAS)

(BRAZINSKAS, PRANAS)

SUBJECT: SOVIET AIDE MEMOIRE ABOUT HIJACKERS

REF: STATE 243694

1. FULL TEXT OF SOVIET EMBASSY AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE ACCORDING TO REPORTS WHICH HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY
IN THE AMERICAN PRESS AND WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY
DENIED, P. BRAZINSKAS AND A. BRAZINSKAS, WHO COMMITTED A
GRAVE CRIMINAL OFFENSE ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR IN
1970 BY HIJACKING A SOVIET CIVILIAN AIRPLANE TO TURKEY, KIL-
LING A STEWARDESS, N. V. KURCHENKO, AND WOUNDING OTHER CREW
MEMBERS, HAVE BEEN ON US TERRITORY SINCE AUGUST 24, 1976.

IN THE ABOVE INCIDENT, THE LIVES OF SEVERAL DOZEN PASSENGERS

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WERE ENDANGERED.

3. QUOTE THE APPEARANCE OF THE BRAZINSKAS IN THE US AND THE FACT THAT US AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTEDLY EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF GRANTING THEM ASYLUM, CANNOT BE LOOKED UPON AS ANYTHING BUT ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE TASK OF COMBATTING THE HIJACKING OF AIRPLANES AND THE GRAVE CRIMES WHICH OFTEN ACCOMPANY THESE ACTS OF PIRACY.

4. QUOTE IT IS WELL KNOWN TO US AUTHORITIES FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE ONE OF JULY 15, 1976, ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY, THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE BRAZINSKAS CRIMINALS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY MAY BE, MUST BE SURRENDERED (QUOTE PODLEZHAT VYDACHE UNQUOTE) TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT HARBORING THEM CONSTITUTES AN UNFRIENDLY ACT TOWARDS THE USSR.

5. QUOTE IN MANY STATEMENTS OF AMERICAN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING THOSE MADE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, IT HAS BEEN UNEQUIVOCALLY INDICATED THAT THE US FAVORS INTENSIFYING THE FIGHT AGAINST HIJACKING OF CIVILIAN AIRPLANES. THE EMBASSY PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE US AUTHORITIES WILL ABIDE BY THEIR ANNOUNCED POSITION THAT ACTS OF AIR PIRACY ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER. IN THIS CONNECTION THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO NOTE THAT PERSONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED AIR PIRACY WHICH HAS LED TO THE DEATH OF OTHERS ARE SEVERELY PUNISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH US FEDERAL LAW. SO THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY HAS NO REASON TO DISAGREE WITH THE OPINION THAT SUCH DANGEROUS CRIMINALS AS THE BRAZINSKAS --FROM THE POINTS OF VIEW OF AMERICAN LAW -- SHOULD NOT, AS A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE, GO UNPUNISHED.

6. QUOTE THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE APPROPRIATE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WILL QUICKLY TAKE MEASURES TO ARREST THE BRAZINSKAS CRIMINALS AND TO SURRENDER ('VYDACHA') THEM TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE PUNISHMENT WHICH THEY HAVE EARNED BY THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS, MADE EVEN GRAVER BY DIRECT MURDER. UNQUOTE

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7. DEPARTMENT QUERIED SOVIET EMBASSY ABOUT TRANSLATION OF LAST PARAGRAPH OF AIDE-MEMOIRE, AND EMBASSY REPORTED THAT 'VYDACHA' TRANSLATES AS 'RETURN' AND NOT RPT NOT 'EXTRA-DITION' IN THIS INSTANCE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE246412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SOV:LWILLEMS:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760375-0277
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761084/aaaacvln.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 243694
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AIDE MEMOIRE ABOUT HIJACKERS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, UR, US, (BRAZINSKAS, ALGIRDAS), (BRAZINSKAS, PRANAS)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006